
Welcome to the Community Resilience Virtual Briefing

26th March 2021

Topics to Cover

- Virtual briefing to complement the weekly email briefing
- Covid and vaccination update
- Scottish Parliament Election
 - How to register to vote, different ways of voting, new arrangements in place at polling stations, working at the election
- Visitor Management Plan
- Key contacts and ideas for future briefings please

Covid and Vaccination Update

- Nationally positive cases at 70.2/100,000 – 7 day rate
- Highland infection rate has reduced again from 45.4/100,000 reported last week to 22.5/100,000 this week, so positive improvement

- Test positivity 1.2%

- Still need to stick to:



- Majority of cases

remain around the inner moray firth area however also a number of cases around parts of Lochaber

- Vaccination schedule on track

Scottish Parliament Election


- Date: Thursday 6 May
- Voting for Members of the Scottish Parliament

Polling places will be safe places to vote at the Scottish Parliament election in May, but there are other ways to vote.

Want to vote by post? Apply early

The
Electoral
Commission



YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT 

Members Scottish Parliament

129 Members of the Scottish Parliament, 73 are Constituency and 56 are List Members

Everyone in Scotland is represented by **8 Members of Scottish Parliament (MSP)**:

1 for their constituency e.g. Caithness, Sutherland and Ross

7 for the larger region in which they live e.g. Highlands and Islands

Depending where you live you will receive one Constituency ballot from one of the following Highland Constituencies:

- *Caithness, Sutherland and Ross*
- *Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch*
- *Inverness and Nairn*

and you will receive one ballot
Regional ballot List MSP's for the
Highlands and Islands Region



Who Can Vote?

You can vote if you are registered to vote in Scotland and you will be 16 or over on Thursday 6 May, and are:

- ✓ British or Irish citizen
- ✓ Commonwealth citizen who has leave to remain in the UK, or does not require such leave
- ✓ Citizen of European Union Country
- ✓ Qualifying foreign national who has permission to enter or remain in the UK, or who does not need such permission

British citizens living overseas cannot vote in the Scottish Parliamentary election.

What is different in 2021?

- Qualifying foreign nationals (those who have permission to enter or remain in the UK, or who do not need such permission)
- Refugees (but not those with pending asylum application in Scotland)
- Prisoners who serving a sentence of 12 months or less in UK prison and usually resident in Scotland

How to Register to Vote?

You can register to vote online [Register to vote](#)
or by using the QR code below



You will need to provide some personal information including your national insurance number and date of birth.

Registering online only takes a couple of minutes.

Or request a paper Invitation to Register:

Call **0800 393 783** to receive a paper application form

How Can I Vote?

At your polling station

- You will be sent a poll card
- You do not need your poll card to vote
- Polling station open on Thursday 6 May from **7am to 10 pm**

By Post

- If not yet registered you need to complete an application by **Tuesday 6 April (5pm)**
- You will receive your ballot papers via post
- Complete and return ensure you leave enough time to arrive by 10pm on Thursday 6 May

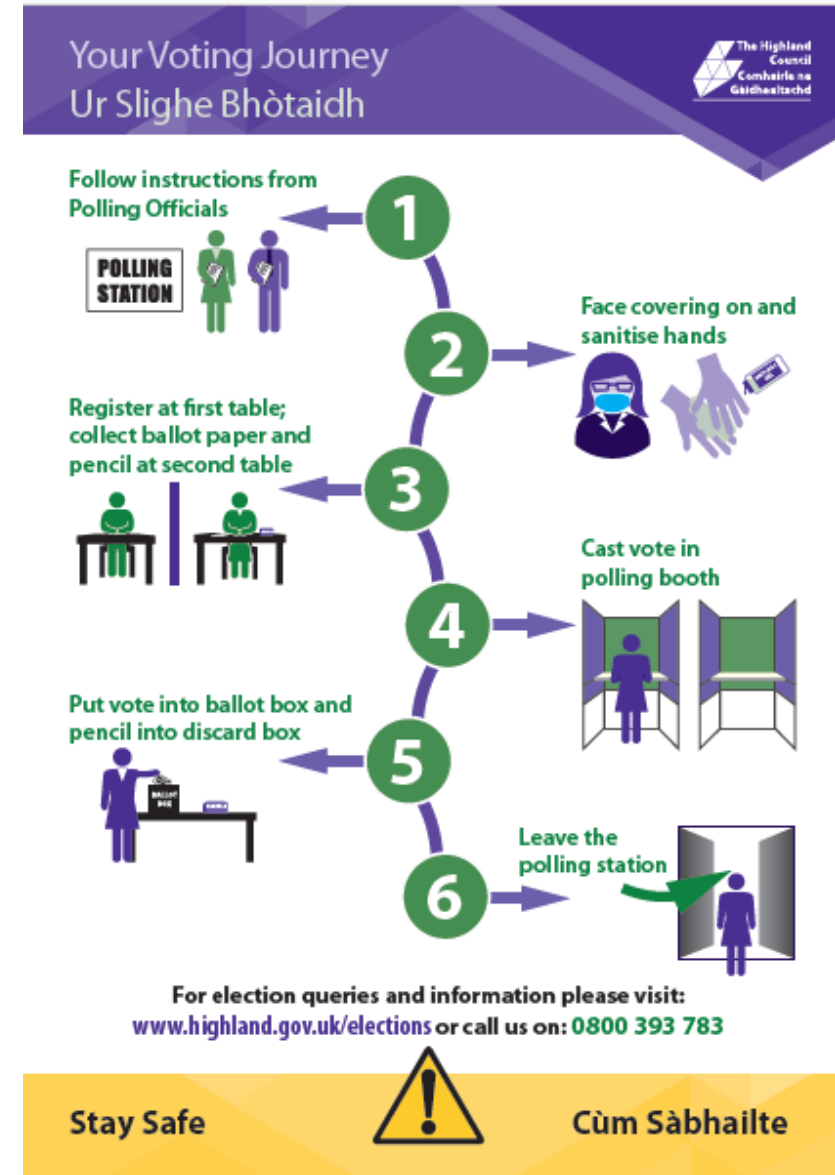
By Proxy (allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf)

- To apply complete an application form and send it to electoral registration office to arrive by **5pm on Tuesday 27 April**
- In an emergency where you cannot go to the polling station, you can apply for an emergency proxy up **5pm on Thursday 6 May**

How can I vote? Cont.

At a polling station:

- We have put arrangements in place to ensure that polling stations are safe places to vote
- Most of the measures that will be in place will be familiar to us all from visiting other public places such as shops e.g. floor markings to ensure physical distancing and the provision of hand sanitiser on entry and exit
- Voters should be encouraged to check their poll card before polling day, to see if their polling station has changed since previous elections.
- Information Officers and our COVID Marshalls will offer guidance to voters and manage social distancing. There may be a one way system in place and voters are asked to bring your own pen/pencil



How can I vote?

How can I apply to vote by Post?

- Download and print [here](#) or request a paper application form to be sent to you.
- You can return the completed application form to any of Electoral Registration offices by post or by email to absentvote@highland.gov.uk
- Call **0800 393 783** or email ero@highland.gov.uk
- The deadline for applying for a postal vote is **6 April 2021**.

Other key dates:

- Register to vote by **19 April**
- Application to apply for proxy by **27 April**

How do I Fill in the Ballot Papers?

Vote only once on each Ballot Paper

Constituency ballot paper

Votes cast in this poll will decide the election of a member to represent your constituency in the Scottish Parliament

- Vote only by putting a cross next to your choice of candidate
- Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way or your vote may not count.

Election of Members of the Scottish Parliament for the [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX] Constituency	
Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross in the box next to your choice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Candidate A A Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate B B Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate C Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D D Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate E Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>



Regional ballot paper

Votes cast in this poll will decide the allocation of 7 additional seats in the Scottish Parliament for the Highlands and Islands Region. You may use this vote either for a political party putting forward a list of candidates or for an individual candidate not standing on a party list

- Vote only once by putting a cross in the box next to your choice of party or candidate
- Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way or your vote may not count

Election of Members of the Scottish Parliament for the [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX] Region	
Vote only once by putting a cross in the box next to your choice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
B Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
C Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate E Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>

Working at the Scottish Parliament Election

Staff required for – these are all paid positions:

- Polling Stations:
 - Presiding Officer – oversees the polling station
 - Poll Clerk - assists the Presiding Officers to run the polling station
 - Information Officer – new post, greets voters, manage queues and sterilise polling and equipment throughout the day
- The Count – starts Friday, 7 May 2021 – day count. Two counting venues - Highland Football Academy in Dingwall and Inverness Leisure Centre.
- Further information can be viewed on the [Council's website](#) and if you are interested and feel you would like to get involved and play an active role please complete the form [online](#).

Queries?

Freephone **0800 393 783**

**ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICE: about registering to vote
and apply to vote**

e-mail ero@highland.gov

ELECTION OFFICE: interest in any of the paid posts

E-mail election@highland.gov.uk



The Highland Council Visitor Management Plan 2021

Welcome to the Highlands

Learn the lessons from last year

Look at how we can improve our services

Work with partners across the region

Ensure the reputation of Highland as a safe and beautiful place to visit is maintained

Plan for improvements and react to Issues

This is the Council's initial response to the growing pressure on our communities, landscape and infrastructure.



Council's Role

Services to visitors

Tourism officers- engage with business groups

Roads & transportation- car parks, laybys, signs

Parking management – charging & enforcement

Waste Management- litter bins & collection

Amenity Services- public toilets

Outdoor Access- SOAC, informal camping, paths

Environmental Health- human waste, fly tipping

Public information- website, social media

Roads Demand Management

Allocated £280,000

Car parks- improve existing, possible new

Passing places & laybys- replace damaged or missing signs, road strengthening

Road signs- additional advance warning signs

Road verge- strengthening and marker posts

Traffic orders- restrictions where required for safety



Parking Management

Allocated £250,000

Parking charging – 21 sites to receive pay & display machines (subject to agreement in line with Council policy)

4 additional Enforcement Officers

Review regulations and replace regulation signs.



Outdoor Access

Promote responsible behaviour- engage, explain & encourage is the priority, enforce is limited.

Partnership working- High Life Highland, communities, landowners, other public organisations, Police & Fire

Monitoring & maintenance – use of car parks & countryside sites. Path and site work

Volunteers- voluntary rangers in communities

Signs- on responsible behaviour, esp Covid 19

Allocated £300,000

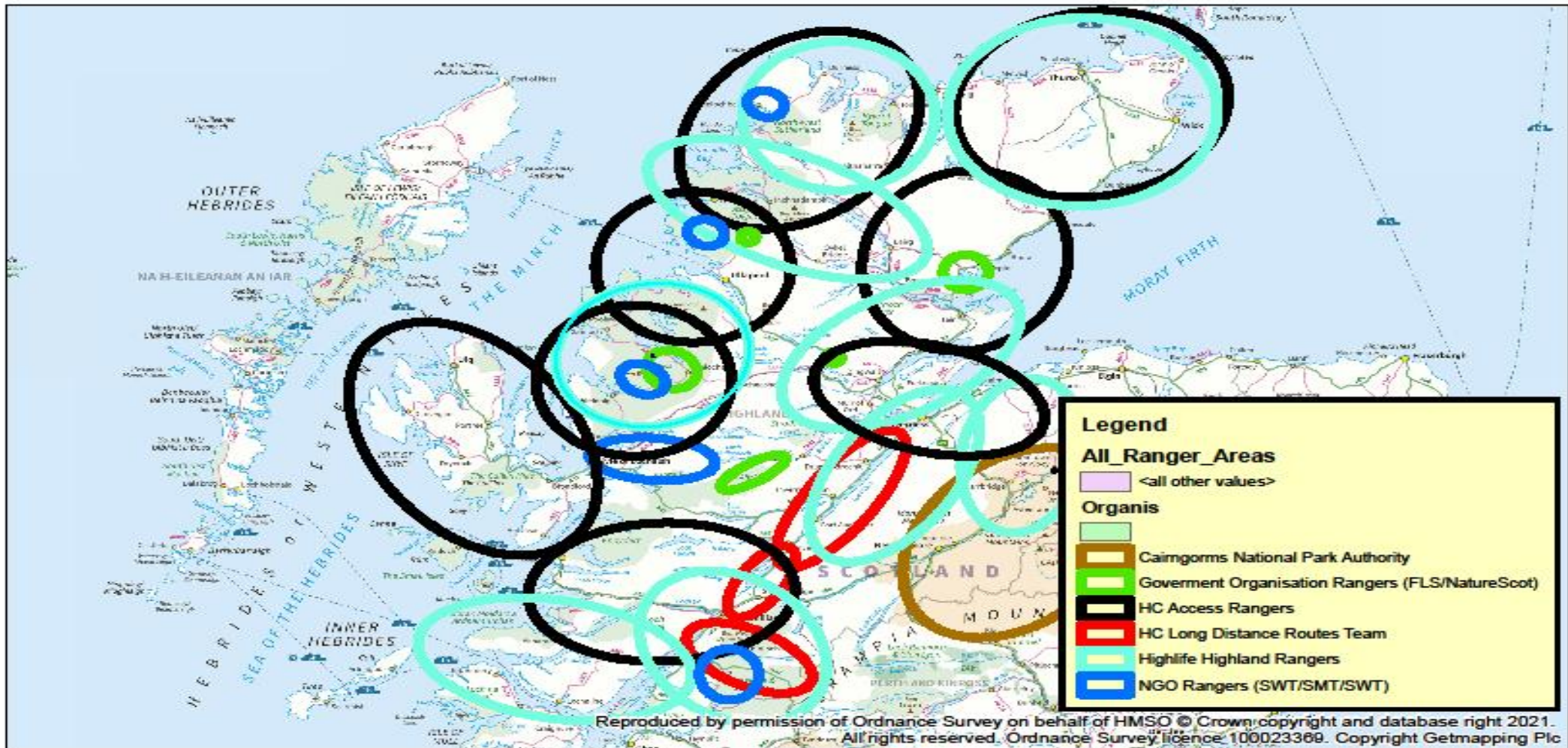
10 Seasonal Access Rangers



BE A HAPPY CAMPER:

- **Use a camping stove.**
Don't light a fire in dry conditions or near woods.
- **Carry a trowel to bury your poo** in case public toilets aren't open.
- **Leave nothing behind.**

Highland Ranger Areas



Highland Ranger Areas

Work in progress

Ref:
Date:

0 10000 20000 30000 40000
1:1,500,000



Public Toilets

Allocated £60,000

Toilet comfort schemes- provide additional

Improve some existing Council sites

Promote the network better

Install counters and charging at some locations



Waste Management

Allocated £180,000

Larger bins in popular sites

Increase collection frequency with seasonal staff and existing collections

Fly tipping & litter- 8 seasonal staff to swap over full litter bins, litter pick and respond to fly tipping incidents



Motorhomes

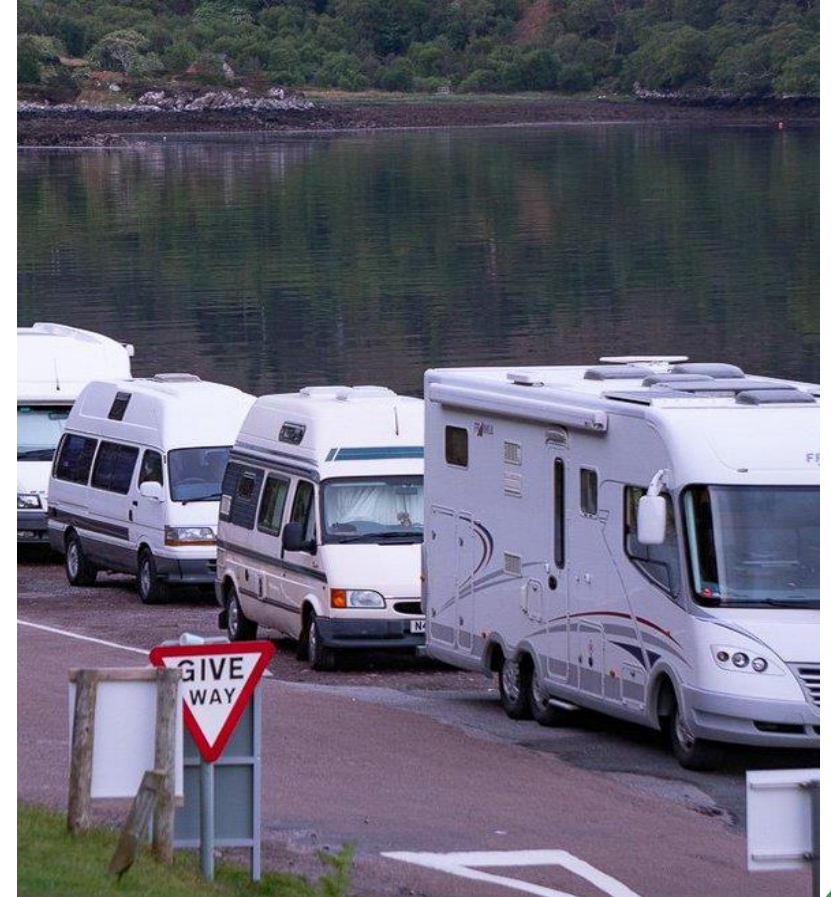
Allocated £200,000

Waste disposal points- design & install near toilets/ car parks on mains.

Grant scheme for commercial sites

Promotion of site network

Guide for small scale overnight facilities



Public Transport

Allocated £60,000

Enhanced bus service on Skye- service to popular site for 3 months.

Promotion of bus services- tourist orientated publicity and multi-journey/operator ticket scheme

Bus Partnership Fund- bid for infrastructure to support Skye and Cairngorm service



Working with CPNA

Allocated £125,000

Car parking & signage

Access improvements

Focussed on Glenmore corridor

CAIRNGORMS
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ÙGHDARRAS PÀIRC NÀISEANTA A'
MHONÀIDH RUAIDH

Next Steps

Provide detailed action plans for each VMP area of activity

Implement actions

Continue Cross Service working group and ensure that a dedicated central point of contact is set up

Engage with external partners

Monitoring of projects and budget

Work on 5 year VMP

Thank You and Stay Safe

For local resilience support – please contact your Ward Manager or policy6@highland.gov.uk

For welfare advice and referring people - Welfare.support@highland.gov.uk

For the vaccination programme NHSHighland.Feedback@nhs.scot

Please respond to policy6@highland.gov.uk if there are any items you'd like to see included in future briefings.

We plan to review the virtual briefing in mid May (after 3 months), and are keen to hear your views on how helpful this information is and what would make it better.

Next Weekly Briefing: There will be a break for the next two weeks for Easter, with the next weekly briefing taking place on Friday 16 April 2021